

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 22nd day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS.

The hon. the PRESIDENT announced that the amendments to the Standing Orders passed by the Council on the 12th March 1923 received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 20th March 1923.

II

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I beg to present to this Council a monster petition signed by over 20,000 people belonging to the district of South Kanara and consisting of big landholders, vakils, doctors, temple owners and others regarding the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill.

"I have the honour to present another petition in connexion with the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill signed by the Mahant of Tirupati on the same lines as the other petition.

"Both these petitions fulfil the requirements of the Standing Orders."

The SECRETARY then read an abstract of the petitions.

III

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1922-23.

The consideration of the demands for supplementary grants for 1922-23 left over from the list of business for the 20th March 1923 was resumed.

Grant III.

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 1.02 lakhs under 'Stamps'.

The various items which go to make up this grant and the reasons which have contributed to an increase of expenditure under each one of them will be found fully explained at pages 3 and 4 of the detailed memoranda attached to the schedule of supplementary demands."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant IV.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 27,800 under 'Forests' to meet additional expenditure on account of loss by Exchange."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 1,29,100 under 'Forests' to meet additional expenditure under 'General Direction—Establishment and Buildings'.

[Mr. A. R. Knapp]

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Grant IV—cont.

The circumstances under which this additional sum is required are explained in considerable detail in the printed memoranda. There is only one remark I wish to make in this connexion. In the Budget of the current year my predecessor promised to effect a lump cut amounting to Rs. 1,06,000. At first sight it may appear to hon. Members, when this supplementary grant is brought forward, that that cut has not been carried out. But that is not correct. The cut promised by my predecessor has been faithfully carried out. An examination of the details of the present demand will show that the actual net excess over the sanctioned grant is Rs. 29,100, and that, as will be seen, is almost completely accounted for by one of the items in the demand, namely, arrears of pay to clerks, an item which was not provided for in the Budget. I make this remark to show to hon. Members that we have not failed to put into effect the undertaking given by my predecessor last year."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, one of the items that go to make up this grant of Rs. 1,29,100 is this: a sum of Rs. 10,000 for 12 additional supernumerary Rangers not provided for in the Budget. I cannot understand why so many as 12 supernumerary Rangers have been provided after the passing of the Budget last year. I can understand if there was a necessity for the appointment of one or two Rangers; but I cannot understand why so many as 12 have been appointed and why this could not have been foreseen when the Budget was presented."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, my hon. friend has touched on a very complicated item in the forest organization. The origin of the supernumerary Rangers is this: at the time when the Forest Department was reorganized in the year 1919, we had a class of Deputy Rangers. We decided that the Deputy Ranger fulfilled no useful purpose and we made up our minds to abolish him. The question then arose what was to be done with the men who at that time held the rank of Deputy Ranger. The suggestion was that they should be placed in the class of Forester, a grade which was inferior to that of the Deputy Ranger. We had no other alternative because the Deputy Rangers were not qualified by training to be promoted to the office of Rangers. But in fairness to them we had to undertake that those who were otherwise qualified would be given the option of going to the Forest College and getting themselves qualified for the post of Rangers. The result is that we have had to train certain number of these men. We have been training them in batches of six, and we promised them that when they had undergone their training, we would place them slightly above the class of Foresters and rank them as supernumerary Rangers. I may at once say that they do not get the pay of Rangers. The question how many of these men are to be provided for in our Budget depends upon the prospect of work during the year. These men are filling leave and acting vacancies and doing odd jobs as they turn up. What has happened this year is that Mr. Cox (Chief Conservator of Forests), having something like 26 of these supernumerary Rangers on his list, expected that they would all but twelve be absorbed in Rangers' work of some kind during the year. As a matter of fact there was some stoppage in our works owing to the cut of Rs. 1,06,000 which my predecessor promised last year. The result was that the opportunities for the employment of these men as Rangers were fewer than was anticipated and they had to continue to be shown as supernumerary Rangers. It is not

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[Mr. A. R. Knapp]

Grant IV—cont.

a question of our deliberately appointing these men during the year. They come automatically from the Forest College. I am now considering the possibility of ending this arrangement, because we cannot go on indefinitely like this."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant VII.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted a sum of Rs. 15,613 under the head '22-A (c). General Administration—Tour expenses—Special trains for His Excellency's own use and haulage of his saloon carriages.'

The circumstances under which this grant is asked for are explained in the printed memoranda."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted a sum of Rs. 19,600 under 'Staff and Household of His Excellency the Governor.'

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant IX.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 90,000 under General Administration.

I have a full explanation here of all the details which go to make up this amount if the Council wish for them, but they are also given more briefly in the memorandum."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" Mr. President, Sir, in this connexion, I beg to be permitted to say a few words with regard to the Secretariat Department. The department is under three Secretaries."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order. The hon. Member should have given notice of some sort of reduction, say, a reduction by Rs. 100, to enable him to pass his remarks. But he may ask for any information in regard to the demand to enable him to make up his mind whether to vote for or against it."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" I should like to know, Sir, in connexion with this grant whether it is a fact that a seventh Superintendent was appointed and the Government Order regarding proper representation of communities was not taken into consideration."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" The grant in question has nothing to do with communal representation. It is concerned, in the first place, with exchange, and in the second, with the refund of lapsed deposits."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant XI.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 77,650 under 'Administration of Justice—Criminal Courts'.

[Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

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Grant XI—cont.

From page 6 of the memoranda it would appear that this amount represents pay of special and summary Magistrates appointed to try cases connected with the Mappilla rebellion, time-scale of pay to certain subordinates and a few other items."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, one of the items under this grant is a sum of Rs. 12,000 said to represent the cost of introducing the time-scale of pay to subordinate magisterial staff in the districts of Kistna, Guntur, Nellore, Anantapur, Bellary, Madura, Salem and South Kanara. If the time-scale was fixed before the Budget was framed there is no reason why this sum should be granted now. If it was fixed after the Budget was framed, I cannot see the need for it. I wish to know, Sir, whether the time-scale of pay was fixed before the Budget was framed and if so, why this was not put in the Budget."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The time-scale of pay was fixed before the Budget was framed; but it is a very complicated matter to work out each individual case."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Though it is a complicated matter, it should have been possible to have included it in the Budget. However I do not object to it."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant XIII.

11-15 a.m.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 4,37,417 under 'Police'.

As it will be seen from the memorandum, the main items responsible for this excess are travelling allowance and the cost of railway warrants; the excess under the former being Rs. 2,10,000 and that under the latter being Rs. 3,33,000. As has been pointed out in the same memorandum, as the result of rigorous economy the amount of 5.43 lakhs has been reduced to 4.37 lakhs."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I wish to know whether Government should wait till the end of the year to find out what would be the total excess they would be required to make up. Is it not the case that they are in a position to know from time to time what extra funds are necessary for a particular item; and, if so, why should they not come before the Council then? This practice seems open to objection. I should like to know whether they cannot come before the House from time to time as occasion arises for the supplementary grants."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Sir, I should like to say in reply that whenever we do get any increase in expenditure which we can define, we do come before the Council for supplementary grants. In fact the House has been complaining that we are coming for too many supplementary grants. Now, after the Budget was passed, the Government of India increased the railway fares. That made it clear that unless we stopped officers from travelling we should have to pay more for travelling allowance. In the majority of Departments we have been able to keep down to the Budget

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[Sir Charles Todhunter]

Grant XIII—cont.

allotments in spite of the increase in railway fares. But owing to the troubles which have taken place in Malabar and the Agency, we could not restrict the travelling and avoid the payment of increased railway fares. We could not exactly say how much additional would be necessary, and we did not wish to trouble the Council with a revised estimate every time we found an unavoidable increase in a particular item."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Since the railway fares had been increased long ago it should have been possible for the hon. the Finance Member to anticipate by how much the amount was likely to be exceeded."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XIV.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 6,000 under 'Scientific Departments'—

	RS.
Cost of publication of the 'Flora of Madras'	4,000
Loss by exchange	2,000
Total ..	6,000

Sir, at the request of this Government, the Secretary of State arranged in 1910 with Mr. Gamble, a well-known Botanist, for the preparation of the 'Flora of Madras' on the following terms :—

- (1) That the author should be paid a bonus of £50 for each part published ;
- (2) that the Madras Government should purchase 500 copies of the book at a discount of 12½ per cent of the issue price ;
- (3) that the whole expenditure should be borne by the Madras Government.

This publication is likely to comprise eight parts of which four parts have so far been published. The fourth part was published last year ; but the publication was not foreseen and no provision was made in the estimates for 1922-23. The High Commissioner now reports that an expenditure of Rs. 6,000 as detailed by me has been incurred. This amount of Rs. 6,000 is now required in the estimates of 1922-23 under Grant XIV—Scientific Departments. I therefore submit that the House may grant this sum."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—"It was said that the order was given in 1910. There had been sufficient time for the publication of the whole book. It has been hanging fire for so many years and the hon. the Minister says that only four parts have been published hitherto. When will the remaining parts be published, and how many parts are going to be published next year?"

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Sir, it is suggested that the whole of the expenditure should be borne by the Government of Madras and that the author should be paid a bonus of £50 for each part. Then what is the meaning of the Madras Government purchasing 500 copies at a discount of 12½ per cent? When the whole expenditure is borne by the Madras Government it means that all the copies belong to the Madras Government. Am I to understand that the author keeps the copyright for himself and the Madras Government bears all the expenditure and also buys 500 copies?"

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Grant XIV—cont.

Rao Bahadur K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA :—" Sir, I should like to ask what the price of each part is. I also want to know whether all the 500 copies will be distributed among the Departments or whether any of them will be available with Government for sale."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Sir, all I can say is this contract was entered into at a very much earlier period than I can think of answering in detail. It was an agreement the Secretary of State entered into with the consent of the Madras Government. I will only submit that the House will realize the importance of fulfilling contracts entered into by the previous Government. As for the information sought, I am afraid I am not in a position to supply the hon. Members with it because it requires my going into previous records."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XVII.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 44,310 for meeting excess expenditure under 'Medical'.

Sir, the details of the demand are explained at page 7 of the hon. the Finance Member's memorandum."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XXVIII.

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 13,306 under '41-B. Civil Works'.

Sir, the details of this grant are explained on page 9 of the memorandum."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XXIX.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 2,55,485 under '45. Superannuation Allowances and Pensions—Reserved'.

Sir, the bulk of this amount is due to the fact that our calculations on averages of the number of persons likely to take pension happen not to be borne out by the actuals of the year. There were more persons who applied for pension than we expected. Another large item is due to the exchange. In connexion with this, I might perhaps explain that I have just received a letter from the Auditor-General to the effect that we should not ask for a supplementary grant in a case like this where the excess is due to a change in classification but should ask sanction to a reappropriation instead."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

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Grant XXXI.

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 16,700 under '46. Stationery and Printing—Transferred'.

Sir, details of this demand are given at page 10 of the memorandum."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant XXXIII.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 18,442 under 'Agency'."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 16,112 under '26. Police Agency'."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the supplemental demand for Rs. 16,112 under '26. Police' by Rs. 100.

In moving this reduction, I want to discuss the policy underlying the press communiqué, dated 26th February 1923, for the upkeep of punitive police in the Agency tracts. This action has been taken by Government, under section 15 of the Police Act, to bring home to the people of the locality their responsibility. The Government are now considering the question of quartering police detachments in the locality and recovering the cost of them from the villagers under section 15 of the Police Act.

"Sir, ordinarily, we would have thought it fit to table a Resolution to discuss the principle underlying such a policy of the Government; but since the House is going to be dissolved very soon, and since we will have no opportunity to discuss such important questions, I thought it would be well to table a motion of this kind. Fituris are very scarce in the Agency tracts. We had a fituri in the eighties, and that fituri has repeated itself after 30 or 40 years. This last fituri began in the August of 1922, and after a month the Government came to this House for a supplementary grant of one lakh of rupees. While discussing that grant, the hon. Member for Kistna remarked :

I am sure that the local officers and the local people would be able to tell us more about the causes of this rebellion, or rather, I hope, that the representatives from that part of the country would add to my remarks.

"And my hon. friend, Mr. C. R. Reddi, while discussing this very question said :

We all know that a definite assurance was given by the right hon. Mr. Montagu when he was Secretary of State for India that any time the military were brought in to restore peace and order, the restoration of peace would be immediately followed by the institution of an inquiry of the kind now suggested.

"The House discussed the necessity of appointing a committee to inquire into the causes of this rebellion, and instead of doing anything of the kind, we are surprised to find the Government have, under the executive powers vested in them, issued the notification which I have referred to,

[Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo]

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Grant XXXIII—cont.

“In this connexion I may bring to the notice of the House that we
 11-30 a.m. people outside the fituri areas know very little of what is going on in regard to the operations there. We have a number of police officers who are very highly paid, some subordinate police officers and an army of police men; we have been spending lots of money over them without knowing anything. I would, therefore, request the Government to consider this aspect of the question and take the hon. Members of this House into their confidence before they inaugurate such a policy. With these observations, I move the motion that stands in my name.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“Mr. President, my friend, Mr. Das, has already referred to the communiqué issued by the Government. If I understand the press communiqué correctly, it means that the Government want to put an end to the fituri as early as possible by adopting three methods: the first method is to prosecute the village officers and other village people on the ground that they did not give information to the Government officials whenever the fituridars passed through their village or halted in their village; the second method is to prosecute the rebels that have been already taken hold of; and the third method is to have punitive police stationed in various villages. As to the desirability of prosecuting the village officers for helping the fituridars, I do not believe there are village officers who will so help the rebels. I was told that already a batch of eighteen or so of the village officers were tried and sent to various terms of imprisonment extending from three to eighteen months. This, I might say, has already created some impression that the local people who have nothing to do with the fituri are being run down by the Government officials. Any person who is acquainted with the condition in which the people live in the Agency tracts will understand that there is something wrong with the policy of establishing punitive police in the Agency. The villages do not consist of more than two or three huts and they can be made or unmade within a period of 24 hours. If really the punitive police is to be established in any village, it is only to strike terror in the villages and drive the people away into the interior of the Agency. So far as the complaints we have already received from the Agency on account of the policy hitherto adopted are concerned, there is one that the *podu* cultivation has been much reduced, and another that there has been influenza. Whichever is the cause, there is already a reduction of population. The scaring away of the Agency people by punitive police and thus reducing the population will be a highly undesirable thing.

“In the matter of the prosecutions, I am told that the Government or the local officials, not being satisfied with the services of the Public Prosecutor who is serving in the Agency division, are also having the services of an additional Public Prosecutor. I questioned the desirability of increasing the strength of the prosecution by employing too many people, especially in cases where there will not be any defence on the side of the rebels that are prosecuted. Perhaps the local officials want some more expenditure on the various items. The local impression is that the whole thing is being carried on by sheer extravagance, and this seems to be another item added to the extravagances of the Government.”

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA :—“Mr. President, the question for consideration is whether the Government is well advised in having the punitive police quartered in the Agency tract. My hon. friend, Mr. Narasimha Raju,

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Grant XXXIII—cont.

has already told the House what Agency dwellings really mean. I do not know if the hon. Mr. Knapp has personal experience of the Agency tract and of the villages there. I have been told that in some of those areas a number of villages which you can find to-day will not be found to-morrow; and to say that punitive police should be quartered in such villages is only to allow an absolute waste of money by the Government. For, if you do not find any villages at all, who will pay this high cost of the punitive police? Practically it will be a charge on the general tax-payer and not a tax on the particular people who live in the Agency. I do not think that the district in its entirety, including the local boards, should pay for the punitive police. The real causes for the fituri are economic to a very large extent. In addition to the reason given by Mr. Narasimha Raju, namely, the prevention of the *podu* cultivation, I would also say that the reservation of a large extent of land for forest purposes is another cause which perhaps is rankling in the minds of the Agency people to a large extent.

"One thing I would submit in regard to the Agency villagers is that you ought to be somewhat considerate to them in these matters. They are a very timid sort of people. A story goes—I do not know how far it is really true; I have not verified it—that on one occasion a Government official asked a villager in the Agency whether the fituridars did not pass through the village and as to whether rice was not supplied to them by the villagers. The villagers admitted that it was so. When asked why they allowed them to come and supplied them with rice, etc., the reply given was that it was for the same reason that the police had given their rifles to the fituridars. That was the state of mind of these villagers, because the fituridars, when they come, tell the people 'if you do not give us what we want and if you tell anything to the officials, your village will be plundered or your houses will be burnt.' Being very timid people, they are frightened by these threats. You have to take this aspect of the question into consideration in regard to the Agency people when you consider the question of launching out prosecutions or quartering punitive police in their tracts."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, though the portfolio of the Police administration belongs to my hon. colleague on the right, I must seize this opportunity nevertheless to protest against the tendency which so often appears in this House to accuse the police all over the Presidency of surrendering arms. It has just been suggested that the police in the Agency gave up their rifles to the fituridars. I should like my hon. friend to give me one instance."

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA:—"When the fituri was first started it was said that the fituridars went to the police stations and took away the rifles."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"That is another question. I wanted to have an instance of the police giving away their rifles to the rebels as was suggested."

"I understood from my hon. friend who made this motion—"

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I believe that in the press communiqué, or perhaps in the daily press, it was said that one of the divisional officers with his party was attacked by the fituridars and that the party gave up all the ammunition and the arms in their possession."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, that officer was defeated and he had to retreat, and one of the party was killed. That is very different from saying

[Mr. A. R. Knapp]

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that the party surrendered their rifles. It has been suggested that the police abjectly surrendered their arms, and it is to correct that impression that I wanted to refer to the matter.

"My hon. friend who made this motion suggested, I think, that some kind of inquiry committee was needed. I do not think he is right in claiming that I made any promise to that effect. What I said was that inquiries would be made. But after hearing the discussion this morning I should almost be justified in saying that there is no room for inquiry. My hon. friends on the other side of the House have told us what the causes of the fituri were, and they claim to have local knowledge. But that is not my position, and so far as I am concerned, I am determined to get to the bottom of the whole business. Mr. Happell who is shortly going on leave owing to the reduction of the forces now about to take place, will write a report on the information which he has obtained and as soon as we get the report the question will be considered whether the fituri is or is not explained satisfactorily and whether any further inquiry is necessary. Until we get Mr. Happell's report, I must obviously suspend judgment altogether as to the causes of the fituri.

"There is another point incidentally referred to by my hon. friend across the table in regard to the trial of cases in connexion with fituri. He mentioned that eighteen village officers were tried and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, and he suggested, I think, that this was in the nature of a persecution. I have no details of the particular cases in which the sentences were passed. But I assume that all the cases stood the test of the courts and it is only where the courts found the persons guilty that punishments were awarded."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I said the prosecutions were intended to strike terror in the minds of the people."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I take it that the prosecutions were intended for the purpose of punishing those who offended against the law.

"The main trend of this discussion was in connexion with the punitive police. One hon. Member said, perfectly rightly, that there was no reason why the general tax-payer should pay for the police which was found necessary to put down a local rebellion in the Agency. That is exactly the attitude which the Government have been adopting, and I am very glad to get that support from him. What we say is that our operations there are being prolonged by the attitude and conduct of the people who not only persistently refuse to give the police and our officers that assistance any law-abiding citizen ought to give us, but they go further and are helping what remains of the fituri gang. The gang has now been reduced to very small numbers, to something like 15 or 20 people. But we are still not able to catch them, and it is perfectly obvious that we cannot allow them thus to carry on month after month, perhaps even year after year.

"One hon. Member has reminded me that I have no personal knowledge of the Agency. That is true. But I am sorry that those hon. Members who claim some knowledge of the area have not come forward with any constructive suggestions or alternatives. If there is any suggestion which will go to help the Government in this matter I should only be too glad to receive it. But until some such suggestion is forthcoming the Government can only adopt the policy which seems best to them. It is perfectly legitimate in the

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public interest—and I think that it is probably the only way to deal with the matter—to bring home to the people of the Agency their responsibilities and to ask them to help us in capturing the fituridars.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—“ Sir, the hon. Member for the Agency, in the course of his reply stated that he did not make any definite promise—”

11-45 a.m. The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“ What I said was that I was not sure that I had made any such promise.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—“ I may only remind the hon. Member of what he said in his speech on the 13th November 1922. He said :

When we have put the fire out, it will be absolutely essential to try and discover the causes of it and the way in which to prevent further conflagrations. My hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, is inclined to think that some measure of conciliation is possible and he quoted a precedent from what my predecessor did in 1879 . . . All I need add is to repeat that we have every intention to make the fullest possible investigation as soon as the conditions will allow us to do so. Mr. Huggins has recently joined as Agency Commissioner. (Hitherto we had only an acting man.) I hope to be able to see him next week and I shall not lose the opportunity of ascertaining from him as definitely as possible what the causes of the rebellion are as far as they are ascertainable, and I shall impress upon him the necessity of losing no opportunity of discovering what grievances there may be. I think it is most likely that there may be grievances which have to be redressed. I can assure the House that any information that we may get sooner or later on the subject will be fully laid before the House for information.

“ Sir, my complaint is this, that after all the time that has elapsed, still we have not been able to know what the causes are that led to this rebellion, and the hon. Member in charge of the Agency portfolio has not brought to our notice his experiences and the results of his investigations.

“ Another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the House is this, that it is not really a fact that the people there have not been helping the Government in the matter of putting down the rebellion. The people there are not an enlightened class. They do not understand their responsibilities as members of enlightened communities might do. They are troubled by the fituridars themselves. If the fituridars come to a village, the villagers have to give them supplies because the former force the supplies out of the villagers. And what do the police do? The police in their turn come and ask the villagers whether the fituridars had been given supplies. If they say ‘yes’, they are punished. I want to know if such people have been at all punished, and what is the sort of punishment that was meted out to the villagers who by sheer necessity and on being compelled to do so, had given supplies to the fituridars. Rumours come that they have been badly treated.

“ On the other hand, there are instances where people have really come forward offering their services to help the Government. Take the case of the Maharaja of Jeypore. He has promised a donation of Rs. 50,000, out of which Rs. 25,000 have already been paid by him. That is what I learn; I speak subject to correction. But if this amount of Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 25,000 has come into the hands of the Government I want to know where it is shown. Is there any separate account for donations received from private parties? Again, some twelve elephants were given by the Maharaja of Jeypore to help in the suppression of the rebellion, but no mention of it is found anywhere. Are there any other instances where the Government have got help from private individuals? It is a very sorry spectacle to find that the people who give their money and who give all possible assistance, should be told in the Council that they do not help the Government. When the hon. Member for

[Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo] [22nd March 1923]

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the Agency lays the charge on the people that they have not been helping the Government I rise to say that there are instances like the contribution from the Maharaja of Jeypore that ought to be appreciated in this House as also by the Government. What I mean is this, that the people have been rendering all possible assistance, and that the Government have been trying to secure some unimportant people from their rat-holes, as my hon. friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao put it the other day. It is not possible for all the people of the Agency to come and find out in which corner or in which recess of the forests these fituridars hid themselves and gave trouble.

"In the communiqué the Government have said that there is nothing to report. Evidently, the whole thing has been suppressed. Whether Sitaramaraju has fled from that part of the country or whether he is there, the Government are unable to say. What is the meaning of waiting and seeing whether this man is there or not, and whether his followers are there or not? It is possible that, while the Government is searching for them in one part of the country, they may have gone to another part of the country. Therefore what I say is this. The best thing for the Government will be to take away the cause of this rebellion, I mean to say the root cause of the trouble, and remove the police from that place. The Government have done one very good thing. They have promised rewards to the people who get hold of these rebels. That is, I think, enough for the purpose. I wish to know in this connexion whether the people, as I already stated, have not come to the rescue and help of the Government in this matter, and whether it is justifiable to accuse them of not coming to the assistance of the Government."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, one important question which has been raised in connexion with this motion is about the justification for the imposition of the punitive police in the Agency tracts. The communiqué to which attention has been drawn proceeds by saying that the Government received no information regarding the causes of the fituri, and that there is nothing further to report. This being the state of affairs, one could ask for specially justifying circumstances for the imposition of the punitive police in the manner suggested. The hon. Mr. Knapp himself in the course of his remarks has told us that no enquiry has yet been made as to the causes of that disturbance."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I did not say that no enquiry was made, Sir. What I said was that we were waiting for the report of Mr. Happell before forming any judgment on the matter."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"From what the hon. Mr. Knapp stated, it seems that no final orders have been passed regarding the subject matter of the enquiry. He tells us that Mr. Happell is shortly to send his report and that after he sends his report, orders will be passed. He has not placed before us any information to show that the villagers concerned have been suspected of being in complicity with the fituridars. That was the only basis upon which the Government should have thought of imposing a punitive police force. In the absence of any information that the villagers have been directly or indirectly aiding these fituridars, it is I think unreasonable and unfair that a punitive police force should be placed there and that they should be called upon to pay for its cost. On the other hand, my hon. friends from the Agency tracts with actual experience of the state of affairs there, have placed before us certain

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facts showing that some of the people have been rendering help to the Government. My hon. friend, Mr. Rath, referred to the case of the Maharaja of Jeypore who had given substantial donations and also placed some of his elephants at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of helping them in quelling the rebellion. This shows that the people are willing to co-operate with the Government in putting an end to the fituri. We have no information to the contrary; and in the absence of any such information, I think we will not be justified in granting this provision for the punitive police in the Agency."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, the press communiqué to which reference has been made says that it has now become clear that some definite action should be taken to bring home to the people of the locality their responsibility, and that the Government are considering the quartering of a police detachment in the locality and recovering the cost thereof from the villagers under section 15 of the Police Act. I presume that no definite action has been taken as yet and that the Government has not yet come to any decision to quarter punitive police in the Agency. I should like to know whether I am right in saying that no decision has been come to, and my object of saying a few words at this stage is certainly to induce the Government not to quarter any punitive police in the Agency tracts. Our object in raising this question is to inform the Government that so far as the Agency people are concerned, they are a very simple-minded folk, who have very little to fall back upon. As has been stated in the previous discussion, the causes of this rebellion are partly economic. I believe attention was drawn to the report of Mr. Patro in the last discussion, and there is considerable force in the view that there are causes requiring investigation, causes requiring the improvement of the economic position of the people who live in the Agency. Sir, from this point of view, it seems to me that the quartering of the punitive police in the Agency tracts and asking the inhabitants there to contribute to its cost is really a proceeding which may bring about another fituri and another rising in that part of the country. We know very well that it is quite a different thing to quarter punitive police in Kamudi or Guntur or such other places where there is plenty of money: it is quite a different thing, apart from the question of the policy of it. But to quarter punitive police on the hill tribes who live from hand to mouth and on *podu* cultivation, is, I think with all due respect to those gentlemen who proposed this form of punishment a most unwise thing to do. Therefore I should think that this question of quartering a punitive police and recovering the cost from the villagers is one which certainly deserves much more consideration than it seems to have received from the Government.

"It is easy to make these proposals and much more easy to ask us to make constructive suggestions as the hon. Mr. Knapp has done in this debate. I think that the best constructive suggestion that we can make is to, leave matters alone and not to trouble these people any further. It is said that Sitaramaraju, the author of this rising, is not to be found and that he is somewhere unknown. I do not know anything about the other two gentlemen referred to, by the hon. Mr. Knapp. But all that I want to say is that I was recently in Vizagapatam and I was told that the result of all these operations was to drive Sitaramaraju slowly into the Central Provinces; and if this punitive police is to be quartered amid these unfortunate people, it may have

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the effect of pressing him still further into the Central Provinces. I see from the statements of various persons, that the villagers say 'The Government officers come round and ask us to carry their loads, and we do it. So also the fituridars come and ask us to carry their loads, and we do it. We are found fault with for doing the latter. What is it that we have done to deserve this treatment?' These are the hillmen among whom my hon. friend, Mr. Knapp, proposes to quarter a punitive police force. There is no question of winking at fituridars. The whole question is whether by quartering this punitive police my hon. friend would be furthering the object for which he is quartering them, namely, the production of the fituridars before the officers of the Government. I do not believe that this will be the result. The result will be this: the police will be quartered in the Agency. They may have a very nice time there. They may shoot a number of tigers or panthers. They will probably quarrel with the hillmen for milk and fowl and various other things for which they will undoubtedly say that they will pay or that they have paid, or that they have no intention of not paying. All this will certainly go on, and at the end of six months or so, the question of further quartering the punitive police will be considered, and a number of reports will be received from the local officers that the man (Sitaramaraju) has not been produced. I do not think that even from the point of view of putting an end to the fituri, these people are going to do anything more than what they did in the past. Therefore, it is merely a question of considering the broad facts. The ultimate remedy which the Government seem to have thought of is this quartering of the police. They seem to think, 'Don't enquire into the causes of the trouble. Quarter the police for some time and things will settle themselves.' We do not at all believe in this philosophy. We want to go to the bottom of this economic trouble. So far as the previous discussion is concerned, my hon. friend, Mr. Knapp, seemed to have said that no enquiry was made—"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I say, Sir, that an enquiry has been in progress for the last five months? Until I get the report of
12 noon. Mr. Happell, as I said, I cannot come to any final conclusion."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"We do not know that any enquiry is in progress. No press communiqué has been issued. Nobody has been asked about it. At any rate so far as the people of Vizagapatam are concerned, they do not seem to know anything about it. I do not know what sort of enquiry the hon. Member, Mr. Knapp, is thinking of. So far as the people are concerned, they have the right to demand a public enquiry. I have not heard of any single individual who knew the enquiry of Mr. Huggins. The Government may have the benefit of that enquiry, but I should think that this particular method of punishing the hill tribes is not wise. There is still time for the Government to come to a decision on the matter and I hope they will come to the right decision if they propose to abandon this idea."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Sir, I know many of the zamindars have got Agency tracts under them, and I know that cordial relations exist between them and the hill tribes. It is only a few months back that I was told how cordially the hill men treated the Raja of Parlakimedi and how they even worshipped him like a tin god. But when we come to the Agency that is administered by the Government we hear quite a different tale. The reason is quite obvious. The reason is that the

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Government have not done their duty, have not fulfilled their high expectations towards the hillmen. In the Agency tracts, the executive have combined in themselves the functions of the High Court of Justice and the functions of the Governor. I appeal to the hon. Member in charge of the Agency to make a deep inquiry into the conditions prevailing there. In the Agency tracts the Deputy Tahsildar can do and is doing much more than what the Governor can do in the ordinary tracts. Such being the condition, I think it would be extremely unwise on the part of Government and extremely unwise on the part of this House to allow the existing state of things to continue, to allow the executive to have extraordinary powers and carry on a certain policy that is very much condemned by the people by virtue of powers vested in them under a certain Act.

“The hon. Member for Ganjam, Mr. Rath, has brought to light certain things. He has stated that the Maharaja of Jeypore has made certain contributions and that he has also reason to believe that certain other gentlemen have also made other contributions. I would ask the Government for an account of these contributions. Government, time after time, have been telling us that they had very little to give. I believe, if I remember the very words of the communiqué, they did not give very much information because there was very little information. If that be the condition, I believe it is extremely unwise and I repeat, with all the emphasis that I can command, that it would be extremely unwise on the part of the Government to post punitive police to watch people who always live from hand to mouth and on whom all sorts of oppression have been brought to bear and whose only happiness seems to be the tea-gardens of Assam. Fituris have been, I should say, rare because we have got this fituri after 35 or 40 years; and if this policy is repeated, I think we shall have more fituris and we shall have more of the mischiefs that we have heard of. The hon. Member in charge of the Agency tracts has promised us that he will make an inquiry. I am sorry, Sir, that at this late hour of the day he tells us that he has deputed Mr. Huggins to conduct an inquiry. I thought the promise that he gave involved a promise that he would take some non-officials into his confidence and would have an inquiry by officials and non-officials. I believe, Sir, I have the right to demand of the Government such an inquiry into the state of things. I think the people of the Agency tracts, wretched as they are, have the right to demand a better treatment at the hands of Government and this hon. House. Since I am not satisfied with the explanation given by the hon. Member I have no option but to press the motion to a division.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“I am not sure whether my hon. friend opposite took part in the debate held yesterday afternoon on the Demand under Agency Budget. I am only sorry that he did not then put forth some of the views that he now gives expression to. What he has been pointing out persistently is the necessity for spending a great deal of money to improve the economic condition of the people in the Agency which he tells us is at the bottom of the whole trouble. He has also asked us to bring under closer control the Deputy Tahsildars who are said to be exercising unlimited powers at present. If these are his views, he should have voted yesterday against a reduction of the Agency grant. But he has not done so.”

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"I ask, Sir, is that the only way of controlling the officers or improving the condition of the Agency area?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"My hon. friend talks of the necessity of raising the economic condition of the unfortunate people of the Agency. He also referred to the fact that the Deputy Tahsildars were left more or less uncontrolled but the superior establishment which exists to control them it is now proposed to cut down."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"I should be very sorry if that is the construction put on my speech and the speech of any other hon. Member of this House."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Repeated reference has been made to the promise that I am supposed to have made to start an inquiry last September. I doubt if my hon. friend has read the proceedings of the date in question. What I said was that it would be possible to arrive at a final decision only after inquiry. I mentioned incidentally that I was going to Narasapatnam and should see Mr. Huggins myself and obtain his views. I did go there. Mr. Huggins had not at that time been right through the fituri country. For various reasons he could not do so. Mr. Huggins has taken every opportunity of getting what information was obtainable from those who were in a position to give information from actual knowledge—and in that definition, Sir, I do not include a gentleman who lives in Waltair; my hon. friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao complains that no one in Waltair was consulted."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"My hon. friend has no right to say that I referred to Waltair. I said that no one in Vizagapatnam knew of it."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"The fact is Mr. Huggins consulted very many people who actually knew at first hand what the facts were. In due course we will get Mr. Happell's report and not till then will it be possible for us to make up our minds. Reference has been made to the fact that the Maharaja of Jeypore has generously made certain contributions for the benefit of the forces operating in the area and there was a sort of suggestion that the money had disappeared."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"There was no suggestion that the money was disappearing, but certainly there is an allegation that the money is not shown in any account."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"When the hon. gentleman said that he had a right to demand an account, there was a sort of implication that if he did not demand it it would not be forthcoming."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"We ought to know where the amount is shown."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I may mention here, Sir, that a portion of money was paid yesterday."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Are we to understand that the portion that was paid yesterday was the first portion?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"The first portion, Sir, was paid several weeks ago; it was handed over to Mr. Huggins to be distributed amongst the police. I am very doubtful, Sir, if this amount will appear in Government accounts. It was not a payment to Government. If the

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House is interested in the details, I may say that it was originally a payment in rice.. The Maharaja of Jeypore converted that into money and handed over actual cash to Mr. Huggins. The first instalment was paid some weeks ago, and the second was paid yesterday."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"Is it a voluntary payment or did the Government ask for it?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I do not think I am entitled to go into the motives of the Maharaja."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"It is not the motive that has to be gone into, Sir. I ask whether the Maharaja as an Agency chief, owning a large tract of the Agency, was asked by the Government for help."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"He has not been asked by the Government. I may suggest to my hon. friend to question the Maharaja himself in private rather than question me. I should like to take this opportunity of publicly thanking the Maharaja for his generosity. Our thanks have already been conveyed to him in a letter. In due course, when we receive Mr. Happell's report, further reference will be made to his gift. The suggestion now made appears to be that since the Maharaja has been so generous to the police, it is quite wrong to say that people in the Agency affected by the fituri have been backward in giving us help. I do not quite see the connexion. We do not accuse the Maharaja of harbouring fituridars. Nothing is farther from our minds. . . ."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"What I meant was that there were people who, like the Maharaja, voluntarily gave donations for the suppression of the fituri."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I am not aware of contributions of a similar kind. If my hon. friend is aware of any, he can give an account of it."

"There seems to be some misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Ramachandra Rao as to what exactly is our position. He advised us to leave things alone. I must say that I am astonished at this suggestion. As the executive Government it is our duty to see that these criminals, the jam brothers and the Raju are caught, and I ask whether, in the opinion of the hon. Member, we should leave off all attempts to catch them and allow them to roam over the Agency free from prosecutions or anything of the kind."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I did not say that the criminals should not be got hold of. But I complained against the villagers being punished by the quartering of the punitive police. I certainly did not object to the attempts of my hon. friend to get hold of them if he had unlimited resources himself."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I am very glad to hear that. Sir, I was surprised to hear my hon. friend's advice to leave matters alone. Now he agrees that it is the duty of Government to try and catch these malefactors. It is for that purpose, Sir, that we are quartering the police."

Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"But it should not be at the expense of the people. That is the trouble."

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I have tried to explain that the police would be there in any case. The hon. Member opposite has to my mind quite rightly said that if we are to have the police it is fair that the villagers who are to a certain extent responsible for not having the business finished should contribute. It is not to be supposed that the levying of such a tax from the villagers is going to reduce them to beggary. We understand just as well as my hon. friend that it is impossible to suppose that the people can pay any very substantial portion of the cost of maintaining the police. We may leave it to Mr. Huggins to see that such contributions towards the cost of the police as may be levied are not vindictive or oppressive but merely such as will suffice to bring the people to what I maintain is the proper frame of mind. If any one will give me any other practical method of managing this affair, I should be delighted to adopt it. And if they would help us to catch the people, I would willingly withdraw the police. But no other alternative has been suggested. Hon. Members tell us that the Agency people are very simple minded, and I maintain that this method of reminding them of their duties is a simple-minded remedy. It is not a question of these people being coerced by the fituridars. What we do object to is that even after the fituridars have passed a certain village, even when the villagers have seen the gang, they will never tell us until perhaps one or two days afterwards when the information is no use to the authorities. I do not think any reason has been shown for the hon. Members of this House to be alarmed at the suggestion of stationing a punitive police in the way in which I have just now described. I therefore hope that the demand will be granted."

The motion was put and lost.

The demand for the supplementary grant was then put and carried and the grant made.

IV

THE MADRAS HINDU RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS BILL, 1922.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, I beg to present the Report * of the Select Committee on the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill of 1922 and move that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration. Sir, the Bill has been published in the Gazette and copies of the same circulated to hon. Members of this House. To meet the criticisms offered from various quarters, considerable changes have been introduced in the Bill and on account of these changes the Bill has taken a somewhat altered shape. Accordingly, the Bill was republished in the Gazette in English and the chief languages of the Presidency. The reasons for these changes have been explained in the report and it is therefore unnecessary for me to detain the House at this stage with any lengthy explanation."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU seconded the motion.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARI:—"Sir, I wish to take a technical objection to the introduction of this Bill. In the original Bill that was introduced, the Preamble stated as follows:

Whereas the previous sanction of the Governor-General has been obtained to the passing of this Act . . .

* Vide page 59, Part IV of the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 6th March 1923.